

## Wakefield 2.1 Summer 2012 Assignment

This year's media (video, text, and audio) approached the rise of technology in very different ways. While the ideas are argued in different ways, the four items basically break down into two positive and two negative views of where we are and where we are going.

Bilton embraces new technologies and tries to assuage fears by drawing on fears of the past to show us that our current fears are unfounded. *Rewired* argues that schools aren't using technology enough, and therefore, are failing to connect with students in ways that are engaging. Turkle takes an interesting stand by admitting that the technologies are here to stay at the same time as warning us of the potential societal dangers that they are presenting. Finally, E.M. Forster, of all people, predicts a future dominated by the "machine." Amazingly enough, this piece was written in 1909 and remarkably predicts everything from commercial air travel to facebook-like communication.

So, the question is out there. Some are warning that Twitter and texting are ruining the language and Facebook is destroying real social interaction. Others eagerly anticipate the next step. Who is right? Who should we believe? Should we fear the future, embrace the change, or just wait and see.

Here's what I want you to do. **Go out into the world (real or virtual) and interview some people, at least four, about the ideas presented in these works.** Try to vary the demographics as much as possible, especially age. You can talk to your parents, siblings, neighbors, teachers—there are no limitations. Make sure your questions aren't asking for yes or no answers. And ask follow up questions.

**Example of a bad question:** Do you think technology is good?

**Example of a better question:** How about trying something like, "Hey, I listened to this lecture about technology and social interaction. How do you think things like Facebook and Twitter are affecting our social lives?"

**So, you interviewed them.** Did you record them? Video? Audio? Written notes? Did they respond by e-mail? Gather that information. Make sure it's accurate.

**Now, here's what I want. I want a presentation about what you learned, and I want you to draw your own conclusions.**

**What kind of presentation?** Well, the possibilities are wide open. (**NO POWERPOINT**) Perhaps you will put together a podcast or a vodcast (Podcast with Video). Maybe you will make a video. Maybe you will use one of the myriad of web 2.0 tools available to you. Creativity in an advanced technological age is a little more varied than creating a poster. If you just don't have the time, inclination or know how to tackle something more creative, write a paper (2 pages or more please).

**Submit it to me.** How? Well, we are going to try a little thing called Edmodo. It's edmodo.com.

Here's a request to join link: <http://edmodo.com/join/aaeed66e0090b0dd4f23abec7374ea89>

Or, simply go to edmodo.com and click join as a student. You don't need an email and your information is only available to our group. The group code is: **xbykv9**

**As always, keep a copy of your work, especially those who are required to complete the assignment for class.**

**BEST RESPONSE—We have a couple of Kindle Fires waiting. Do your best. Have fun.**